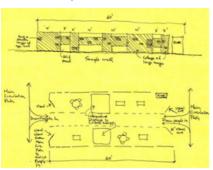
CREATIVE CHICAGO



A Regional Oasis: Interactive Display on Chicago's Regional Plan

By Trevor Dick and Peter Skosev

When you're shuffling from session to session at the APA National Planning Conference in Chicago this April, take a moment to escape from the hustle and go ahead and bustle into the interactive booth created by the Local Exhibits Committee.



The booth will showcase local planning examples from around the region that work towards advancing GOTO2040, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) regional plan. Featuring data and images, but also gathering spots and activities, this year's exhibit will focus on planning throughout the host region.

The Local Exhibits Committee consists of seven planners from throughout the area working to create an exciting, interactive booth that showcases current planning work and implementation of plans in the Chicago region. The committee gets pro bono assistance from representatives of VOA Associates and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, who provide auidance in designing the booth.

Projects that will be showcased in the exhibit come from all types of partners — municipalities; counties; county forest preserve districts; nonprofits; local, regional, and state transportation agencies; and the private sector. The booth will include a seating area to relax and mingle, a few kiosks for planning exercises, information on the new Bus Rapid Transit being developed in Chicago, and the city's Chicago Transit Authority bus tracker system, which enables planners to keep up to date on their buses.

Over the next few months, the committee will be compiling high-resolution graphics and illustrations of projects that highlight planning in the region. To keep the exhibit cohesive and focused, it will emphasize the connections between local plans and CMAP's GOTO2040 Regional Plan, with highlighted projects falling under four GOTO2040 categories — Livable Communities, Efficient Governance, Regional Mobility, and Human Capital.

- Livable Communities focuses on the diverse factors that shape a community's "livability," including land use and housing, water and energy, open space, and local food.
- Efficient Governance addresses increased effectiveness of local, regional, and state governments, including tax policy, access to information, and coordinated investments.
- The Regional Mobility section will focus heavily on transportation, from investments to public transit to freight networks all of which the Chicago region is very active in.
- The last category, Human Capital, ties it all back to the personal scale, featuring local projects on education, workforce development, and economic innovation.

Often at conferences we're all so busy attending sessions and meeting new people that we don't get much time to explore the city we're in. While you should be sure to attend the mobile workshops or just walk around Chicago, the Local Exhibits Committee hopes to bring some of the Chicago region's best assets to you, right where you can't miss them. We look forward to seeing you there!